



# HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

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## **House Democratic Leader Applauds Bipartisan Opposition To Parent Trigger Bill**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, Florida House Democratic Caucus members and seven House Republican members voted against a so-called “parent trigger” measure that could hand public schools over to private interests and threatens to cause devastating results for Florida’s students.

Parent groups, school districts, public school teachers, and others have consistently warned that the legislation, House Bill 867, is crafted for private education interests seeking to boost enrollment, receive additional money from the state, and assume control of taxpayer-funded school facilities.

Following today’s 68-51 House floor vote on HB 867, **House Democratic Leader Perry Thurston (D-Fort Lauderdale)** issued the following statement:

“I shouldn’t be surprised that the corporate-backed education reforms pushed by Republicans since 1999 are still favored by the ruling majority of the House. Yet today’s vote on the parent trigger legislation continues this troubling trend. It is even more disappointing when the voices of those for whom Republicans say they are empowering, the parents, are steadfastly opposed to this bill.

“I am heartened that seven Republicans joined the House Democratic Caucus in bipartisan opposition to this false promise of parental empowerment. Hopefully today’s vote could signal a change in philosophy toward favoring public schools in Florida’s education policy.”

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